



*With the Compliments of the PRISONERS' AID  
ASSOCIATION of Canada.*

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## PRISON REFORM.

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*The cause of Prison Reform is commended to the favorable consideration of the Press of Ontario. We are under obligations to the weekly press for favorable notices. We would be glad if the daily press would place us under a like obligation.*

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### PRISON REFORM.

The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada wishes to secure the co-operation of all good citizens in the cause of Prison Reform. The Association has memorialized the Ontario Government on the subject, and it is desirable that organized societies, and private citizens as well, should join in this endeavor to effect these most needed reforms. The Ontario Government has been asked to appoint a Commission of competent gentlemen to collect information regarding prisons, reformatories, houses of correction, workhouses, etc., with a view to the adoption of the most approved methods of dealing with the criminal classes. They are also suggesting to the Government the propriety of erecting sufficient prison and reformatory accommodation in the Province to completely relieve the gaols of criminals convicted of crime and under sentence. When the gaols are relieved of this class of prisoners there will then be room for classification and for the isolation of persons under custody and awaiting trial. The following resolutions have also

been commended to the favorable consideration of the Government :

1. County jails should be maintained only as places of detention for persons charged with offences and awaiting trial, and should not be used for prisoners after trial and conviction.

2. County jails should be conducted strictly on the separate or cellular system.

3. Persons convicted of crime should not be detained in county jails, but should be dealt with according to the age and natural proclivities of the criminal.

4. A boy under fourteen years of age, not previously vicious, should be restored to his parents upon their giving a guarantee of his future good conduct. Failing this he should be sent to an Industrial School.

5. A boy under under fourteen or sixteen years of age, having a natural tendency toward crime, or being convicted of a second offence, should be sent either to a Reformatory direct or to an Industrial School on trial, according to circumstances ; and a special court should be organized to deal with these cases, as well as with females charged with light offences. A boy should never be brought to open Police Court nor sent to a county jail.

6. Industrial Schools and Reformatories should not be considered as places for punishment, but should be utilized wholly for the reformation of character. The young persons sent to these institutions should not be committed for any definite period, but they should be detained until reformation is attained, irrespective of the time required. The officers of these institutions should be carefully selected, preferably by a system of examination and promotion, and without reference to party or social influence.

7. As industrial employment is a necessary step towards reformation, and as this cannot be supplied by the county jails, the necessity arises for prisons and reformatories of ample dimensions, where such employment can be provided, and where other influences of a reformatory character may be utilized, and where a system of classification may be carried out.

8. The expense and maintenance of such persons in such institutions should be borne by the county from which they are sent, when such expense exceeds the proceeds of the industrial labor of the persons so sent.

9. Tramps and habitual drunkards should be sent to an institution where they can be provided with productive

industrial employment, and where they can be brought under reformatory influences, and they should be detained in said institution under indeterminate sentences. Incorrigibles should be sentenced to penitentiary for life. They should be considered as having forfeited all right to regain their liberty unless reformation takes place.

10. In order to meet the requirements of the case there should be sufficient prison accommodation in Ontario to relieve the county jails of all persons undergoing sentence. This accommodation should be provided either by enlarging the Central Prison or by erecting two additional prisons, one in the east and the other in the west. There should be unification in our prison system. The prisons should be graded, and the reformatory principle in its most improved form and after the best models should be incorporated with said system.

11. The question of prison labor should be removed from the arena of party politics, and members of labor organizations should look at this question from a patriotic rather than from a trades standpoint.

These recommendations have the endorsement of Dr. M. Lavell, Warden of Kingston Penitentiary; James Massie, Esq., Warden of the Central Prison; E. A. Meredith, LL.D., late Inspector of Prisons, Canada; Hon S. H. Blake; W. H. Howland, Esq.; J. G. Hodgins, LL.D., and Hamilton Cassells, Esq., and they are in full accord with Inspector Moylan's reports to the Dominion Government.

The above circular was recently sent out to County Judges, Sheriffs, Gaolers, etc., with a view of eliciting suggestions on the subject of prison reform. A number of replies have already been received, all of which are favorable to the action taken in the matter by the Prisoners' Aid Association. The eleven principles of prison reform, commended to the favorable consideration of the Government, has the unqualified endorsement of the following, namely: Judges Robinson, of Lambton; Kingsmill, of Bruce; Ardagh, of Simcoe; McDonald, of Leeds and Grenville. Judge Benson, of Northumberland and Durham, suggests some slight modifications. Judge Scott, of Peel, approves of the appointment of a Commission, but thinks that said Commission should be untrammelled. Chancellor Boyd endorses the recommendations as presented by the Association. Governors Green, of the Toronto Gaol, Cameron, of Woodstock, Kitchen, of Brantford, Cook, of Berlin, and Coulson of Welland, have also expressed their approval of these proposed reforms.

A circular from the Chairman of the Prison Reform Committee asks, on behalf of the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada, the co-operation of all good citizens in the cause of prison reform. The Association has memorialized the Ontario Government on the subject, and desires that organized societies and private citizens as well, should join in this endeavor to effect these most needed reforms. The Ontario Government has been asked to appoint a Commission of competent gentlemen to collect information regarding prisons, reformatories, houses of correction, workhouses, etc., with a view to the adoption of the most approved methods of dealing with the criminal classes. The circular further commends to the favorable consideration of the Government a series of resolutions, embodying a number of much-needed reforms, having the endorsement of the leading penologists of Canada and the United States. These recommendations include the cellular system for county jails, industrial schools and reformatories, conducted solely with a view to the reformation of character, for youthful convicts; indeterminate sentences, with industrial employment, for tramps and habitual drunkards, etc. The praiseworthy efforts of the Committee deserve, and we trust they will receive, the sympathy and co-operation asked for.—*The Week*, March 15th, 1889.

The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada has issued a circular in which it asks the sympathy and co-operation of the public in its efforts to secure certain important reforms in the management of the prisoners and penitentiaries of the Dominion. These reforms will, if adopted, cure some serious evils that at present exist. They prevent the use of county jails for the permanent confinement of convicted prisoners. They will, by the adoption of the separate or cellular system, do away with the monstrous wrong of throwing prisoners of all classes promiscuously together in the cells and corridors, thus compelling the young and comparatively innocent often to associate with the vilest and most hardened offenders. They will aim at securing industrial employment for all convicts, will send tramps and habitual drunkards to an institution where they can be brought under reformatory influences, be put to regular work, and detained under indeterminate sentences until evidence of reformation is given. These and other recommendations of the Committee will, we are sure, command the warm sympathy and approval of all who have given any thought to the great question of lessening crime and reforming criminals.—*Canadian Baptist*, March 21, 1889.

The Prisoners' Aid Association has done a public duty in directing attention to the urgent need that exists for prison reform, even in enlightened Ontario. The letter, in another column, indicates the lines upon which the reforms should be made. They will commend themselves, we feel convinced, to the good sense of the public, alike by their moderation and by their practicability. We shall refer to this subject again, but in the meantime would bespeak for this letter the careful attention of all our readers.—*Evangelical Churchman*.

We are glad to see the efforts made by the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada in the cause of prison reform. We believe that the series of resolutions recommended by the Association to the consideration of the Ontario Government contains the pith of beneficent change which is most desirable in prison discipline in this country. It would be hard to mention a reform which has a firmer basis in the needs of the existing system, or which has so long been deprived of the effectual sympathy of philanthropists. The disastrous results of allowing young criminals to associate with old and hardened ones have made classification the strongest plank in the platform of prison reform. Having separated the prisoner from his companions, the way is made clear for the influence of motives which appeal to individual manhood, and for the character-reformation which is the ultimate object. The good resulting from industrial employment is a most important means of attaining that object. The prisoner's bodily and mental powers are directed to useful work and consequently away from the thoughts and associations in of criminality. More especially with regard to the young, industrial employment and educational influence combined promise to remove such offenders from the surroundings which are a defect in the present system. We trust that the commission asked of the Ontario Government by the Association will be appointed, and that it will result in the adoption of improvements on the line laid down by the resolutions endorsed by the Association.—*Christian Guardian*.

The thoughtful reader of these recommendations must have been struck with two things: That very much in our system of prison administration needs to be reformed; and that hitherto so little system has characterized prison administration in Ontario.

The Association has got to the root of the matter, when it points out that no sufficient means are at present taken to prevent the continual recruiting of the criminal class from



among the waifs and strays, and the vicious among the youth of our communities. If crime is to be lessened, if the criminal class—and it is now, alas, a well-recognized class in society—is to be abolished, or-nearly so, then we must not go on *making* criminals, either by neglect or otherwise. The only way to decrease the number of criminals is to prevent boys and girls from growing up in crime. It is easier far to reclaim boys and girls from vicious ways than it is to reform the hardened man or woman, steeped in crime. Stop recruiting the criminal class, and the army of the vicious and abandoned will soon be disbanded.

There is no flexibility in our penal system, no discretionary power given to judges or to wardens, no account taken of circumstances, of mental and moral differences between prisoners; all are treated alike, and little or no inducement is held out for reformation. The criminal class know and realize this quite well, and when convicted are content to serve their sentences and bide their time, when they will be free again to prey upon and torment society. What is the remedy for this? Clearly one remedy, as pointed out by the Association, is: the inauguration, especially in the case of juvenile criminals, of the system of inflicting indeterminate sentences. As Dr. Rosebrugh says: "There should be unification in our prison system. The prisons should be graded, and the reformatory principle in its most improved form, and after the best models, should be incorporated with said system."

We heartily endorse all these recommendations of the Association.

It is almost unnecessary to add anything by way of comment to the mere statement of the reforms and changes advocated by the Prisoners' Aid Association; they will commend themselves, we feel convinced, to the good sense of the community. The great wonder is, that we have managed to get along without them thus far, and that they were not introduced long ago. The very proposal of these somewhat radical changes in prison administration, coming as it does from a body of men experienced in the practical workings of our present system, shows that some reason, and indeed, an urgent one, must exist for the inauguration of the reforms referred to; and that it is plainly the duty of the Government to look into the matter seriously and carefully. —*Evangelical Churchman.*

His Honor next referred to the gaol system. He said it was a great mistake to put power in the hands of a police officer by which he might apprehend

citizens and confine them in the cells when they are charged with very trivial offences. Young men are often convicted of offences which do not really show moral guilt. In the gaol they consort with hardened criminals and so are educated in crime. If, he concluded, the degraded and the vicious were to meet to devise a scheme for the propagation of crime they could adopt no system to serve their purpose more fully than the present gaol system. He noted with pleasure that a society had been formed in the city to improve our prison system, and he heartily wished them God-speed. — *Address to the Grand Jury by Justice J. E. Rose,*

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RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, EX-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ON PRISON REFORM.

I think I am not mistaken when I say that among the questions which have been amply debated and investigated, the following are some of those which may be considered settled in the judgment of the Association:

1. As to *jails*, prison reform declares that the county jail system, as administered in the United States, is a disgrace to civilization, and that the administration of justice cannot be freed from the charge of maintaining training-schools of crime, until the construction and management of these places are radically changed, so that their inmates shall be separately confined, and all contaminating intercourse rendered impossible. The county jail should secure such separation that no prisoner shall be allowed to associate with any other prisoner.
2. Prison reform requires that, wherever it is practicable, there shall be separate prisons for women, with officers of their own sex; and that in any prison in which women are held under arrest, or as convicts, matrons or female officers ought to be in constant attendance.
3. Prison reform urges the adoption of inflexible rules, under which the habitual criminal—the unreformed convict—shall always be held within prison walls. Is it not a reproach to the administration of criminal justice, that well-known professional criminals, after repeated convictions, are still at large, preying upon the community and requiring the constant and vigilant efforts of the police to protect life and property?



4. Prison reform encourages organized Christian effort to aid and care for prisoners after their discharge. In most cases now, society does not give the discharged convicts a chance to avoid his old haunts and his old companions in crime. The brand of Cain is upon him, and every man's hand is against him.

5. Prison reform recommends the general education of the youth of both sexes in industrial pursuits, employing and training the faculties of both mind and body in productive labor, as an efficient means of preventing crime

So also with education in all its lines—whether moral, intellectual or industrial—there is no difference of opinion as to its necessity, and they believe that under its influence the time is coming, and now is, when a large majority of the prisoners within the formative period of life may be returned to liberty as law-abiding and self-supporting citizens.

So again, upon the subject of prison labor, there is no difference of opinion among us as to its necessity. Without it there can be no discipline, no progress, no reformation, nothing of an intelligent prison administration. We believe, also, that prison labor has no appreciable effect on free labor, either in the prices of products or wages. How can it have, when the product of convict labor in the United States, as compared with convict labor in the same industries, is less than two per cent., and the total product of convict labor as compared with the total product of free labor is only fifty-four one-hundredths of one per cent.? As to the systems of prison labor, there is doubtless a divergence of opinion among us, but that is only a matter of detail, to be determined by the circumstances of the locality in which the prison is built, and the class of prisoners to be employed. In Ohio, where we are grading our prisoners so as to have life prisoners and incorrigibles in one prison, and young men under thirty convicted of their first offence in another, we are inclined to adopt for the first prison that system which will make the most money for the State, and in the second whatever system will most conduce to the reformation of the prisoner. In our reformatories for boys and in our reformatories for girls we consider the question of labor the same as in our common schools—no more and no less. In the matter of prison labor, however, we are satisfied that more depends upon the efficiency of administration than upon the system adopted. Under an efficient partisan administration, where reformation of the prisoner has no place, the contract system is undoubtedly the best, for it will make money without any

risk ; but if the reformation of the prisoner is to be the main object, then some other system must be adopted, and trained officers and a civil service administration is a necessity.

Prison reform is not sentimentalism. It does not make martyrs of condemned murderers, or heroes out of convicted felons. It does not send women to the cells of the justly condemned with rare delicacies and costly flowers ; it is ashamed of those who do such things. It does not sign petitions for executive clemency simply because somebody presents them. Prison reform believes in the enforcement of law, and the proper punishment of the criminal. As in the case of inebriates, so in the case of criminals, prison reform believes in prolonged removal from temptation, and in the case of a confirmed criminal, in imprisonment for life. Prison reform holds that this is necessary for the protection of society, and it is also the best in every way for the criminal himself.—*Rutherford B. Hayes.*

#### COUNTY JAILS.

There is no other institution in this country, having an official and legalized existence, that is such a reproach and curse to our civilization.—*Eugene Smith.*

More of the vice and crime that prey upon the community can be directly traced to the corrupting influences of the county jail, than to any other cause, not excepting the use of intoxicating liquors.—*Sinclair Tousey.*

Vice is more infectious than disease, and it would be more reasonable to put a man into a pest-house to cure him of headache, than to confine a young offender in one of our common jails, organized on the common plan, to effect his reformation.—*Edward Livingston.*

If it were the deliberate purpose to establish criminals in all that is evil, and to root out the last remains of virtuous inclination, this purpose could not be more effectually accomplished than by incarceration in county jails as they are now, with few exceptions, constituted and governed.—*Dorothea L. Dix.*

What is condemned on all hands is the indiscriminate overcrowding of the corridors by neophytes in crime and the hardened wretches who have grown old in wickedness. This should not be suffered to continue. The prison, instead of becoming a deterrent, is virtually a seminary of crime, where experts indoctrinate the juveniles in all the dark and devious ways that lead to wasted and ruined lives.—*Canadian Presbyterian.*

## CLASSIFICATION.

Wherever these methods have been fully and fairly tried, crime has decreased and society in all respects has been largely benefited. Deterrence has not been weakened, but reformation has been largely increased.

Among the means that have been proved to be of most service, the following are considered by the best authorities as being the most important: Classification, industrial employment, indeterminate sentences, education, and prisoners' aid societies.

The most important requirement in the reformation of prisoners is classification. Very little can be accomplished in the reformation of prisoners while old offenders are allowed to associate with other prisoners. There is but one remedy, and that is the absolute separation of the prisoners, so that no prisoner shall come in contact with any other prisoner. No half measures will suffice, and (as well put by Dr. Meredith, of this city) "the choice must be between separation and contamination." This is known as the cellular, the individual, or the Philadelphia system. The separate system was recommended in England by a Select Committee of the House of Lords as far back as in 1835, again in 1847, and still again in 1850. In 1855 copies of the "Report and Evidence of the Committee of the House of Lords" just referred to, were transmitted to the then Governor-General of Canada, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanied by an exhaustive circular despatch, in order, as the despatch explained, "that the colony should have the benefit of the experience of the Mother-country and of the eminent men who have made that experience their study, for the purpose of effecting any amendments which may be needed in the prisons and system of prison discipline in use in Canada." And in urging the adoption of the separate system in Canada, it is added: "You will bear in mind that no ordinary difficulties, nor, indeed, any difficulties, should be allowed to stand in the way of the establishment of the system." Regarding the necessity of industrial employment for prisoners, there is no difference of opinion among prison managers. There can be no reformation or proper discipline without it.—*The Mail*.

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 THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE.

Dr. E. C. Wines, one of the most eminent of America's penologists, and the originator of the International Prison Commission, speaks of the Indeterminate Sentence as fol-

lows: "A criminal is a man who has committed an offence, and deserves punishment. But he is also a man morally diseased, and needs a cure. The prison is intended to effect both these ends—the punishment and the cure; nay, to effect the cure by means of the punishment. Now, as it is clearly impossible to predict the date of a sick man's restoration to bodily health, so it is no less impossible to foretell the day when a moral patient will be restored to moral soundness. So that, by fixing the duration of the sentence in this latter case, we run a double risk, namely, on the one hand of turning the criminal loose on society before he is cured, and on the other of detaining him after he is cured. So that by making his release depend on the mere lapse of time, we are almost sure of committing a wrong on one side or the other—a wrong to society or a wrong to the prisoner. Still, again, the protection to society is at once the end and the justification of imprisonment. But society is not protected by the criminal's imprisonment, unless he is reformed by it. There is the same reason, therefore, for keeping as for putting him in prison until there is a moral certainty that, if set at liberty, he will not go out to prey upon honest people, and to despoil them of their property. In such a case the end for which he was imprisoned (the protection of society) fails utterly. The State is cheated of its due benefit, and receives absolutely nothing for all the trouble and expense it has incurred in the apprehension, trial, conviction, and incarceration. We do not set the madman free till he is cured of his madness. Neither can we safely, nor even justly, set the criminal free till he is cured of his proclivity to crime. As the safety of society and the good of the lunatic require that his confinement should be regulated upon this principle, so equally do the safety of society and the good of the criminal require that his detention should be adjusted upon the same principle."

In the able paper on "Prison Reform" read by Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, before the Canadian Institute, the subject of Indeterminate Sentences was dealt with. The main idea of this system is that a person frequently convicted of crime is in the same category as an insane person, and should be, when convicted, sent to prison and detained until apparently cured. This plan has been ably discussed and advocated by the late Hon. F. Hill, Inspector-General of Prisons for Scotland. In 1836 the system was adopted on Norfolk Island, and is now approved by experts the world over. Conditional liberation of criminals naturally follows the

adoption of Indeterminate Sentences. The system originated in England as the ticket-of-leave plan, and there the authorities are steadily improving and extending its operations with the most beneficial results. Britain has also set another good example in the almost universal adoption of compulsory education of every illiterate criminal committed to prison. The whole aim of prison discipline should be toward reformation of the criminal and deterring him from future crime.—*The Mail*.

From the report of the standing committee of the National Prison Association on the reform of the criminal law :

1. The substitution of indeterminate sentences in all cases of conviction, even for minor offences. This indeterminate sentence is now almost universal in reform and industrial schools, where the offence is often only nominal, and it could be easily introduced in all the minor prisons.

2. The extension of this indeterminate sentence into perpetual confinement for incorrigible offenders. If the offence proves to be the result of insanity, epilepsy, habitual drunkenness or the like, then let the confinement be sufficient for restraint and the protection of society without being penal.

*Professor Wayland*, who was one of this committee, followed the reading of the report with some general remarks in the same line: "The treatment of a prisoner naturally divided itself into two aspects. Either he must be reformed or incapacitated for further crime by the deprivation of his life or his liberty. If a prisoner was to be released merely because an arbitrary period was at an end, that was deliberately throwing society into danger. For such continually recurring dangers indeterminate sentences were the only alternative.

In the matter of the indeterminate sentence, the National Prison Congress is steadily and surely growing up to the conviction of its absolute necessity, if any great progress is to be made in the reformation of criminals. In fact, I believe it is safe to say that that conviction has already been reached, so far at least as to sentences of young men under thirty years of age, convicted of their first offence. It believes also that prisoners who have indicated, by a third conviction, that they are incorrigibly criminal, should be sentenced for life, and should not be paroled, at least till

they have served the maximum period fixed by law for the crime for which they have been convicted.

In the matter of city and county jails, the National Prison Congress has never had but one opinion since I have attended its annual sessions, and its belief is that the average American jail is an offence against God and humanity, and that no large results can be attained in checking the rising tide of crime until it is abolished. We believe there is but one remedy, and that is the absolute separation of prisoners, so that no prisoners shall come in contact with any other prisoner. In Ohio we are building all our new jails to secure this result. We believe also that the county jail should be solely a place of detention for prisoners awaiting trial, and that convicted prisoners should be sent to district workhouses or to the penitentiary, as the gravity of the offence may indicate. This result has already been secured in part by authorizing counties to send their misdemeanants to the workhouses at Cleveland and Cincinnati, and quite a number have availed themselves of the privilege.  
—*Gen. Brinkerhoff, of Ohio.*

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#### PRISON LABOR.

Extracts from addresses made at the Annual Meeting of Prisoners' Aid Association, February 26th, 1889. The President, Hon. S. H. Blake, spoke as follows:—

"We should have had a member of the Government here to-night to condescend to listen to the matters that will come up, and to reforms for which we want legislation; they were invited." A commission should be issued, he said, to investigate these questions. It was a monstrous wrong to put a man in prison and keep him in compulsory idleness. The prisoner's labor should be productive. Turning to the question of classification of criminals, he said places of detention were wanted. He did not think there were so many difficulties in the way of prison labor as labor unions contended; but, anyway, a commission should be appointed to investigate. He advocated indeterminate sentences for second offenders. Returning to the question of classification, he pointed out the danger into which the State threw young offenders by herding them with the hardened criminals, and concluded by calling for a loud voice to go from that meeting for a commission to look into the present system of prisons, and for remedial measures.



REV. D. J. MACDONNELL made a forcible speech, in which he emphasized the efficacy of home influences as a preventive against crime, and referred as follows to the question of prison labor: "I am amazed at the folly of workmen who object to prisoners working in prison. I do not know how far they can see beyond their noses, but it is so manifestly in the interest of the community that I cannot see how they can object."

DR. LAVELL made a speech that was full of touching instances of the reformation of criminals, and dealt with the evils of the present system. He did not think the State should consider its whole duty to society done when it placed criminals in a prison and provided for their punishment. The present system tends to the manufacture rather than the reformation of criminals, simply because of the absence of classification. When he left Kingston there were in the penitentiary 544 criminals, from sixteen years of age upward. Sixty per cent. are under thirty years of age; forty-five per cent. are under twenty-five; and over fifteen per cent. under twenty years of age. Of the 178 prisoners received in 1888, twenty per cent. were repeaters. He contended that the prison should be a school to fit the prisoners to take a place in society on their release. The State should consider them as wards. If they cannot read and write, they should be taught. They should be educated morally, mentally and physically. The men must be trained to industrial pursuits. The men who are "repeaters" are not those who have been trained in industrial pursuits. Work in prisons, to be reformatory, must be intelligent. He had no sympathy with the arguments of labor unions against prison labor.

#### WHITTIER ON IDLENESS IN PRISONS.

A great meeting is to be held in New York this week to protest against the enforced idleness of prisoners. The prisoners themselves are said to be anxious for work. The views of the Quaker poet on the subject are given in this letter:—

DANVERS, MASS., *April 5, 1889.*

MY DEAR MR. ROUND,—I am glad a public meeting is to be held in your city to protest in the name of Christianity and humanity against the enforced idleness in prisons, peril

ous alike to body and mind, which can only result in filling your prisons with maniacs. My sympathies are with the laboring class in all their just demands, and I would favor every legitimate measure which promises to benefit them. But the suppression of labor in the prisons is too small a gain for them to be purchased by the transformation of prisons into madhouses. I trust further reflection and knowledge of the dreadful consequences of the slow torture of brooding idleness will ere long induce them to forego what must be a trifling benefit at the best. With my best wishes for the success of your philanthropic endeavors, I am truly thy friend,

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

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We must press for a commission. A good report on the subject will give the Government something to act upon, and remove, to a large extent, the fear which, at present, prevents their interfering with the County Councils in the management of the gaols.—*Hon. S. H. Blake.*

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You will accomplish more through a Government commission than in any other way.—*Warden N. Lavell.*

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A practical difficulty in prison reform is the divided control of the County gaols. In many cases the Government Inspector makes certain recommendations with regard to a particular gaol. This recommendation is ignored by the County Council. The recommendation is repeated, and is again ignored, and so on, year after year; and the Government declines to coerce the County Council, for fear of endangering their popularity. The remedy is for the Government to assume complete control of all the gaols of the Province.—*J. Cameron, Gaoler, Woodstock.*

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The remedy is in a nut-shell,—a central prison in the east and a central prison in the west,—both on the Elmira reformatory principle, and large enough to completely relieve the gaols of all prisoners under sentence, just what I recommended to the Government years ago.—*J. W. Langmuir, late Inspector of Prisons.*

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Communications on the subject of Prison Reform should  
be directed to Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, Chairman of the Prison  
Reform Committee, 121 Church Street, Toronto.

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